

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph.

--Several references describe supplementing the feed to swine with L-carnitine and chromium: W.T. Cho et al., "Effects of L-Carnitine, Chromium Picolinate with Different Fat Sources on Growth and Nutrient Digestibility in Pigs Weaned at 21 Days of Age" (1999: reprint of Han'guk Ch'uksan Hakhoechi, 41(4)), pp. 445-456, and abstract thereof; M.D. Lindemann et al., "Evaluation of Two Nutritional Technologies for Improving Sow Productivity: Is It the Same Pig?" (August 29, 2001: Presented at the Prince Agri Products Swine Reproduction Symposium, Des Moines, IA); B.T. Richert et al., "Determining the Valine Requirement of the High-Producing Lactating Sow" in B. Goodband et al., Ed., Swine Day 1994 (November 1994: Kansas State University), pp. 10-14; C.J. Samland et al., "Effect of L-Carnitine and Chromium Nicotinate on the Ovulation and Fertilization Rate of Gilts", 5 pages. J.W. Smith, II, et al., "The Effects of Dietary Carnitine, Betaine, and Chromium Nicotinate Supplementation on Growth and Carcass Characteristics in Growing-Finishing Pigs" (1994: Journal of Animal Science: Annual Meeting Abstracts, Vol. 72, Suppl. 1, p. 274), Abstract 1054; J.W. Smith, II, et al., "The Effects of Supplementing Growing-Finishing Pig Diets with Carnitine and(or) Chromium on Growth and Carcass Characteristics" in B. Goodband et al., Ed., Swine Day 1996: Report of Progress 772, (November 1996: Kansas State University Experimental Station), pp. 111-115; A.T. Waylan, "The Effects of Dietary Supplementation of Modified Tall Oil, Vitamin E, Chromium Nicotinate, and L-Carnitine on Pork Quality, Display Color Stability, and Bacon Characteristics" (1997: M.A. Thesis,

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS); A.T. Waylan et al., "The Effects of Swine Dietary Supplementation of Modified Tall Oil, Chromium Nicotinate, and L-Carnitine on Longissimus Muscle Quality Characteristics and Display Color Stability" (1999: Journal of Animal Science, Vol. 77, Suppl. 1, p. 50), Abstract #104; A.T. Waylan et al., "Influence of Dietary Supplementation of Modified Tall Oil, Chromium Nicotinate, and L-Carnitine on Pork Chop Display Color Stability, Warner-Bratzler Shear, and Sensory Panel Traits" in B. Goodband et al., Ed., Swine Day 1999: Report of Progress 841 (November 1999: Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service), pp. 152-155; and A.T. Waylan et al., "Influence of Dietary Supplementation of Modified Tall Oil, Chromium Nicotinate, and L-Carnitine on Bacon Characteristics" in B. Goodband et al., Ed., Swine Day 1999: Report of Progress 841 (November 1999: Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service), pp. 156-158. ~~None of these references, however, is concerned with enhancing the reproductive performance of sows--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph.

--Surprisingly, such a combination has a synergistic effect on the reproductive performance; e.g., the farrowing rate is enhanced over at least two periods of gestation. In particular, the farrowing rate is enhanced for sows which already have passed through a first cycle of gestation, breeding and lactation. ~~L-Carnitine and chromium salts have been found to display a synergistic effect, whereas carnitine or chromium alone has no such effect on farrowing rate--~~